

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of the Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A first adapter to use in a first server in a network, the first adapter comprising:

~~a host bus adapter (HBA) including~~ circuitry to cause, in response to a first request received by the first adapter, execution of a first data storage-related operation associated with a first set of mass storage devices and to issue, also in response to the first request, a second request from the first adapter to a second adapter in a second server in the network to cause the second adapter to perform, in response to the second request, a second data storage-related operation associated with a second set of mass storage device;

additional circuitry to issue, in response to a first message from the second adapter, a second message to a process in the first server, the first message indicating that the second data storage-related operation has been completed, the second message indicating that a respective data

storage-related operation requested by the first request has been completed,

wherein the second request and the first message each include a respective message identification field, and respective message identification fields in the second request and the first message contain identical message identification values.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) The first adapter of claim 1, wherein the circuitry and the second adapter each comprise a respective I/O processor.

5. (Currently Amended) A first adapter to use in a first server, the first adapter comprising:

~~a host bus adapter (HBA) including~~ circuitry to perform, in response to a request, a data storage-related operation associated with a

first set of mass storage devices, the request being issued from a second adapter in a second server in response to another request received by the second adapter to cause the second adapter to perform, in response to the another request, another data storage-related operation associate with a second set of mass storage devices;

additional circuitry to issue a first message to the second adapter to indicate that the data storage-related operation associated with the first set of mass storage devices has been completed, and the second adapter is configured to issue, in response to the first message, a second message to a process in the second server;

wherein the second request and the first message each include a respective message identification field, and respective message identification fields in the second request and the first message contain identical message identification values.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) The first adapter of claim 1, wherein:

the first adapter comprises a first host bus adapter coupled to the first set of mass storage devices;

the second adapter comprises a second host bus adapter coupled to the second set of mass storage devices; and

the first adapter and the second adapter are coupled together via a network communication link.

9. (Previously Presented) The first adapter of claim 5, wherein:

the first adapter comprises a first host bus adapter coupled to the first set of mass storage devices;

the second adapter comprises a second host bus adapter coupled to the second set of mass storage devices; and

the first adapter and the second adapter are coupled together via a network communication link.

10 – 15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A method of using a first adapter ~~including a host bus adapter (HBA)~~ in a first server in a network, the method comprising:

using the first adapter to perform, in response to a first request, a first data storage-related operation associated with a first set of storage devices; and

issuing from the first adapter, also in response to the first request, a second request to a second adapter in a second server in the network to cause the second I/O adapter to perform, in response to the second request, a second data storage-related operation associated with a second set of mass storage devices;

issuing from the first adapter, in response to a first message from the second adapter, a second message to a process in the first server, the first message indicating that the second data storage-related operation has been completed, the second message indicating that a respective data storage-related operation requested by the first request has been completed;

wherein the second request and the first message each include a  
respective message identification field, and respective message  
identification fields in the second request and the first message contain  
identical message identification values.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the first adapter and the  
second adapter each comprise a respective I/O processor.

20. – 32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently Amended) Computer program instructions residing in a computer-readable memory, the computer program instructions comprising a set of instructions that when executed by a first processor ~~comprised in a host bus of a first adapter (HBA)]~~ in a first server cause the processor to perform operations comprising:

~~execution-executing of~~, in response to a first request, a first data storage-related operation associated with a first set of mass storage devices; and

~~generation-generating of~~, also in response to the first request, a second request that may be issued from the first adapter to a second processor in second adapter to cause the second processor to perform, in response to the second request, a second data storage-related operation associated with a second set of mass storage devices;

issuing from the first adapter, in response to a first message from the second adapter, a second message to a process in the first server, the first message indicating that the second data storage-related operation has been completed, the second message indicating that a respective data

storage-related operation requested by the first request has been completed;

wherein the second request and the first message each include a respective message identification field, and respective message identification fields in the second request and the first message contain identical message identification values.

34. (Canceled)

35. (Currently Amended) The computer program instructions of claim ~~34~~ 33, wherein:

the second data storage-related operation comprises one or more of the following operations:

designation of a first data volume in the second server in which data stored in a second data volume in the first server is to be replicated; expansion of a size of the volume; and replication in the first data volume of the data.



36. (Currently Amended) The computer program instructions of claim ~~34~~ 33,

wherein:

the second data storage-related operation comprises one or more of  
the following operations:

termination of a previously-established association between a first  
data volume in the second server and a second data volume in the first  
server, the association designating that data stored in the second data  
volume is to be replicated in the first data volume; and

re-establishment of the previously-established association after the  
previously- established association has been terminated.

37. – 43. (Canceled)